

Yellow Springs Tavern
(Chester Springs Hotel, Good News Building)
Intersection of Yellow Springs Road (LR 15216)
and Art School Road
Chester Springs (West Pikeland Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1131

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1131

YELLOW SPRINGS TAVERN

(Chester Springs Hotel, Good News Building)

Location: Intersection of Yellow Springs Road (LR 15216) and Art School Road, Chester Springs (West Pikeland Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Good News Productions, Inc., Chester Springs, Pennsylvania. (Acquired by Historic Yellow Springs, Inc. in 1974; used as a community center in 1979; restoration is planned).

Statement of Significance: Yellow Springs is one of the oldest and most successful spas in the country. Medicinal qualities were realized by 1722 and the inn was established by 1750. It was used as a military hospital during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and the hotel served as headquarters for General George Washington in 1777. Although the present structures date from the early nineteenth century, it is believed the 1810 east section was built on the foundations of the mid-eighteenth century tavern. The 1839 west section was designed by architect Hugh Walters.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1. William Penn 1705 to Joseph Pike.
2. Joseph Pike 1727 to Elizabeth Pike.
3. Elizabeth Pike 1733 to Richard Pike.
4. Richard Pike 1752 to Samuel Hoare and Nathaniel Newberry.
5. Nathaniel Newberry 1756 to Samuel Hoare his 1/2 interest.
6. Samuel Hoare 1773 to Andrew Allen.
7. Sheriff Ezekiel Leonard 1789 to Samuel Hoare.
8. Samuel Hoare 1789 to Thomas Ruston Kennedy.
9. Thomas Ruston Kennedy 1806 to James Bones.
10. James Bones 1831 to Anthony Wayne Olwine.
11. Anthony Wayne Olwine by sheriff's sale 1838 to Margaret Holman.
12. Margaret Holman 1845 to George Lingen.
13. George Lingen 1847 to Charles F. Hoffendahl a 1/3 interest.
14. George Lingen 1847 to Henry Neef a 1/3 interest.
15. George Lingen 1848 to Henry Neef a 1/3 interest.
16. Charles F. Hoffendahl 1850 to Henry Neef a 1/3 interest.
17. Henry Neef 1851 to Thomas G. Hollingsworth & Robert F. Walsh.

18. Jacob S. Yost, U. S. Marshal, 1860 to Susan R. Snyder.
19. Susan R. Snyder 1868 to Charles W. Deans et al.
20. Charles W. Deans et al 1869 to Chester Springs Orphans School.
21. Sheriff J. E. McFarlan 1870 to Robert Cresswell.
22. Robert Cresswell 1880 to David Simpson.
23. David Simpson 1882 to M. Simpson McCullough.
24. M. Simpson McCullough 1885 to George Pearson et al.
25. George Pearson et al. their interests to R. H. Van Horn
1886-1888.
26. R. H. Van Horn 1888 to J. T. F. Hunter.
27. J. T. F. Hunter 1891 to Farmers and Mechanics Bank of
Phoenixville.
28. Above bank 1914 to Magdalene Society of Philadelphia.
29. Magdalene Society of Philadelphia 1916 to Penna. Academy of
Fine Arts.
30. Penna. Academy of Fine Arts 1952 to Good News Productions,
Inc.

2. Date of erection: The present structure was originally two separate structures. The east section was built circa 1810 on the foundations of a mid-eighteenth century tavern. The west section was built in 1839. The two sections were later connected by a one-bay addition.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers: The architect of the east section is unknown. Hugh Walters of Philadelphia was the architect of the west section (see 1839 newspaper article in Supplemental Material). The builders and suppliers are unknown.
4. Original plans, construction: None known.
5. Alterations and additions: The circa 1810 east section was originally two stories. A third story was added in 1826. There is a one-story addition on the east elevation. An 1856 description (reproduced in the Supplemental Material) still fits the structure today.
6. Important old views and references:

Views: Copy of best view included in this book - 1845-1847. Pictured in reports of the Soldiers Orphans Schools of the state of Pennsylvania from the 1870's on to 1916 in many of the volumes (not good representations). Also pictured in school catalogues of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts from 1916 onwards - Files of both in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

References: Sources of information - Clipping and manuscript files in the Chester County Historical Society under the headings: W. Pikeland Twp. Pri. Sch. - Penna. Aca. of Fine Arts; W. Pikeland Twp. Pri. Sch. - Soldiers Orphans School; W. Pikeland Twp. Bus. Houses - CHESTER SPRINGS; W. Pikeland Twp. History
Also deeds and wills in the Courthouse, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Yellow Springs is one of the oldest and most successful spas in the country. Medicinal qualities were realized by 1722 and the inn was established by 1750. It was used as a military hospital during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and the hotel served as headquarters for General George Washington in 1777. See the following Supplemental Material for additional information.

C. Supplemental Material:

1. Quotation from the "American Weekly Mercury", 5-31-1722, p.4. col.1

"A Letter came to us last Post, dated from Hamstead Harbour in Long Island, requesting a particular Account of the New Bath or Mineral Water found in the Great Valley about (2)0 Miles Westward of this City, for the Satisfaction of the Public in general, and of several Gentlemen in particular who are inclined to come to it from these Parts for Relief; though we have by us Several Instances of remarkable Cures done by the said Water, we are obliged to defer answering the Gentleman's Letter till another Paper, when we hope to give a true and demonstrative Account of its Virtues and Cures."

* * * * *

2. "To the Honourable Justices of the Court of Quarter Sessions to be held for the County of Chester y^e 28th of Aug. 1750

"The Petition of Robert Prichard Humbly Sheweth:

"That Your Petitioner is in Possession of a Farm in the township of Pikeland in the said County on which is that Medicinal Water Called the Yellow Springs unto which there is Frequently a Great Concource of people on account of Health and also many othere Travviling about their Occasions on a Publick Road Laid out and Opened Near the same & also another Road is Ordered to be Laid from Uwchlan which may Cross the above Said Road near Said Spring. All which Occurrences Render it Necessary to Procure Accomodations for such as have Occasion to

Come to the Said Place. And as your Petitioner hath already been at a Considerable Charge in Building & Improving and is yet Willing further to Build and Improve in order to Serve the people Your Petitioner therefore Humbly Prays that Your Honours may be Pleased to Grant him a Recommendation In order to obtain License to Keep a House of Entertainmer at y^e said Place and Your Petitioner as in Duty Bound Shall Ever Pray, &c
Robert Prichard"

"Allowed"

3. "To the Honourable Justices of the Pace at a Court of Quarter Sessions to be held at Chester the Last Tuesday of August 1762

"The Petition of Jamee Martin of the Township of Pikeland in the County affore Said -

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner has Lately Purchased the Right of a Plantation in the Township aforesaid Commonly known by the name of the Yellow Springs and where a Publick house of Entertainment has been kept for several years Past to the Satisfaction and Ease of the neighbours in General as a Vast Concourse of People Dayly frequent the said Springs for their Health from Philadelphia and all Parts of this Country as well as from the West Indies and other forenparts".

Allowed.

4. Quotation from the "Pennsylvania Gazette", Philadelphia, Feb. 4, 1774:

"To be Lett: and may be entered on the first day of April next: That noted INN at the Yellow Springs, together with 150 acres of excellent land, about 25 acres of extraordinary good meadow well watered; a large dwelling house and a large new stone barn.

"The Baths and other outhouses are in good repair; also a saw-mill, rebuilt last summer. The advantage of these Baths is well known to the public, an incontestible proof of which is the great concourse of people- from four to six hundred persons have convened there in one day in the summer season.

DR. SAMUEL KENNEDY

West Whiteland."

5. Quotation from "Chester and Delaware Federalist", 3-30-1814:

LOTS FOR SALE
In the Town of
BATH,

"The subscriber having laid out a Town, at that celebrated watering place and farm, long known by the name of the YELLOW SPRINGS, situate in the Township of Pikeland, in the County of Chester, and Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania, offers to sell One Hundred Lots, (containing altogether 154 acres and 44 perches) at two hundred and fifty Dollars each, one-half of which is to paid, when Deeds in fee simple are made or tendered to them; and the other half in one year from that date, without interest, for which the purchaser must give his bond and security if required. Deeds for the Lots will be delivered to the purchasers at one dollar each."

"The town of BATH, is 28 miles from Philadelphia, 15 from Norristown, 7 from Downingtown and 11 from West-Chester; a turnpike road is authorized from this town to the Little Conestogo turnpike road, and a new turnpike road is contemplated from Pawlingsford Bridge and Norristown, thro' this town to the Little Conestogo turnpike road. The celebrity of the Yellow Springs, the medicinal qualities of their waters, and the salubrity of the air, have been so long known, and so generally resorted to and approved, as to render it unnecessary to describe them particularly.

"On Lot No. 38, is the Mansion House, a stone building, two stories high, 70 feet by 45, commodiously divided into rooms, &c. estimated at six thousand dollars value.

"On Lot No. 43, is a large and commodious Frame building, three stories high, 106 feet by 26, commodiously divided into dining rooms, drawing rooms and chambers, estimated at five thousand dollars value.

"On Lot No. 41, is a good Stone Barn, containing stabling for 48 horses, estimated at eighteen hundred dollars value.

"On Lot No. 42, is a two story Frame House, and a Frame Stable of 70 feet long, capable of containing 20 horses, estimated at eighteen hundred dollars value.

"On Lot No. 39, is an excellent Ice House estimated at one thousand dollars value.

"On Lot No. 17, is a two story Frame Dwelling House, estimated at sixteen hundred dollars value.

"On Lot No. 16, is a Stone Spring House, over an excellent spring.

"On Lot No. 13, is another Stone Spring House and Smoke House.

"On Lot No. 7, is an excellent Bath, the water of as good quality as the Old Yellow Springs.

"On Lot No. 4, is an excellent Mill Seat; the owner of this Lot will be entitled to the right of the old dam in Lot No. 21, and to convey the water from it along the ancient race through Lots 21, 22, 23, 24, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, through the Bath Lot No. 11, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, into the said Lot No. one, and the privilege to keep the said race and dam in repair. This Lot is estimated at three thousand dollars value.

"On Lot No. 78, is an excellent Spring of Water which may be conveyed without difficulty to all the principal parts of the town.

"A number of the Lots are covered with excellent timber, they are of different sizes, containing from about four acres to fifty perches each, according to their situation on the streets, and it is believed the least valuable of the Lots, are worth the money demanded for them.

"The Old Yellow Spring Bath Lot, is reserved for the use of all proprietors of the town in common, the holder of each lot will have this secured to him by deed.

"The timber on the streets is reserved by the subscriber.

"As soon as the Certificates are sold, their situation will be determined by Lot, to be drawn under the superintendence of three disinterested gentlemen, viz: -- Isaac Wayne, Esq. William Everhart Esq. and Isaac Darlington, Esq.

"It is confidently expected the Drawing will take place, on or before the 20th March next, of which due notice will be given.

James Bones.

Bath, Feb. 18, 1814

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6. Quotation from "American Republican", 4-4-1815:

FOR SALE,

"Will be sold, at private sale, that well known and established tavern, commonly called the

"YELLOW SPRINGS TAVERN"

"Situate in the town of BATH and township of Pikeland, in the county of Chester, -- lately occupied by Col. James Bones, as a house of entertainment. The building is very spacious and commodious; and from the great celebrity which the medicinal qualities of the Springs have acquired, it will render the premises worthy the attention of an active person, qualified to keep a genteel house of entertainment.

"Any person wishing to purchase, will please apply to Col. Bones, Mount Vernon, near Warwick furnace, who will make the terms of sale known to such as may be inclined to purchase.

"It is scarcely necessary to give a more minute account of the premises--suffice it, however, to say, that the lot on which the building is erected, is 300 feet in length, and 100 in breadth. The house is substantially built with stone, and is near 70 by 45 feet 2 stories high; a large dining room, parlors and lodging rooms; an entry and a cellar under the whole--with other conveniences.

"If this valuable property is not sold before the 20th of April, on that day, it will be sold at public sale, at the tavern of Bath, on reasonable terms.

Patrick Hazard,
Charles Dougherty."

7. Quoted from "American Republican", 7-18-1815:

NOTICE.

"Those persons who wish to recreate themselves after harvest, in amusements of the most innocent cast, are hereby notified, that three successive Saturdays will be devoted for their accommodation and amusement, by the subscriber, at the Yellow Springs, (town of Bath) in Chester county. Rooms will be provided for select companies, and the best accommodations, good music and skilful musicians always at hand. The Baths are prepared and in neat order. The first Saturday of the three above alluded to will be the last Saturday in the present month (July) All favors will be duly appreciated, by the public's humble servant.

BENJ. MILLER

Yellow Springs, July 18, 1815.

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8. Quoted from "American Republican", 8-3-1819:

Yellow Springs
HARVEST CELEBRATIONS.

"Mrs. Holman respectfully informs those who wish to partake in the annual harvest celebrations, that she has employed the best musicians, and intends procuring the best liquors, &c. that she is determined nothing shall be wanting to render every accommodation desirable.— From the abundance of the present harvest, she has reason to expect that the celebrations will be numerously attended, and is making preparations accordingly. The days of celebration, are, as heretofore, the last Saturday in July, and 2d, and 3d Saturday in August.

July 12, 1819

1-3t "

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9. Quoted from "Village Record", 8-28-1822:

For the Record.

YELLOW SPRINGS.

Brown industry cease from thy toiling,
Pale study abandon thy cell,
Poor and wealthy leave off your turmoiling
And go to the mineral well.

About twenty five miles from the city,
And four or five from the Ship,
In a spot rather wilder than pretty,
(From the city 'tis but a short trip.)

The water is said to be mineral,
And famous for curing disease,
Sickly persons go thither in general,
And healthy one's may if they please.

And that you may know to what sources,
This various collection to trace,
Who by carriages, dearborns or horses,
Come to this most cathartical place.

First you know that within the metropolis,
In every year, in the month of July,
There are thousands, who, lean as a hop-pole is,
Are ready to sicken and die.

Here's a dozen physicians, L—d save us,
And lawyers besides not a few,
Here are barbers too, ready to shave us,
And priests dress'd in black robes— not blue.

When I came here and saw the motley crew
That promenaded to, and from the water,
L—d think's I what can all these people do?
What does this old man here? What does his daughter?

They have staid in the city where it was much hotter,
He's bilious. But what does his daughter here?
(She's pretty, but she's very pale) he has brought her
To carry him warm coffee, soup and beer,
And she's a charming Hebe too I swear.

At this Bethesda there are many more
Whom I note not. But some perhaps may say,
Pray tell us now, old Mr. Polydore,
What led you to the Yellow Springs that day?
In terse I'll tell you (for it is my way,)
I left my room, and passing through the entry,
Set out determined to the Springs to stray;
And came, (pray ladies, pardon my effrontery)
To see if the girls were prettier in the country.

POLYDORE.

10. Quotated from "American Republican", 7-4-1826:

YELLOW SPRINGS HOTEL, and
BOARDING HOUSE.

"Mrs. Holman, proprietor of the above establishment, wishes to
inform her friends and the public, that it has just undergone a thorough

repair, and is now fitted up in a style not inferior to any establishment of the kind in the United States, to entertain Visitors and Boarders the present season. Her buildings are extensive: In addition to the late improvements, she has added one story to the main dwelling, containing twenty-four additional Lodging rooms, enlarged the Dining-Rooms, Ball Room, &c. and she pledges herself that no exertions shall be wanting to procure every necessary, and even luxury, for the table, and choice Liquors, so as to give general satisfaction. Good servants will be in attendance. It is remarked for the information of strangers, that the Yellow Springs are situate about 28 miles south-west of Philadelphia, and five miles north of the twenty-third mile stone, on the Philadelphia and Lancaster turnpike, in a district of country highly cultivated, healthy, and pleasant, beautifully adorned with hills and dale, and in the spring and summer season exhibiting highly picturesque landscape and rural scenery delightful and animating."

"THE MINERAL SPRINGS

of this place have always sustained a high reputation for their medicinal qualities and powerful effect in restoring health and vigour to debilitated persons. She has repaired the GROVE and BATHS, and added an additional dressing room, particularly fitted for ladies. The main roads leading to the place are good, and those in the village, just recently repaired, will render access thereto safe and pleasant, and afford a fine range for gigs in the immediate neighborhood.

"The very great improvements that have been making the Yellow Springs these few years past, together with good accommodations, render it attractive and desirable as a place of resort in the warm season, to those in pursuit of health and pleasure, and no fear is entertained but the judicious and tasteful will be gratified in their visits.

"Stages run daily between this place and the city, the one by Norristown, the other by the Valley Forge.

"Grateful for the partiality which she has hitherto experienced from the visitors at the Springs, Mrs. Holman pledges her best exertions to merit continuance of that partiality.

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July 4, 1826. "

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11. Quotated from "American Republican", 7-25-1826:

"For the Museum.

Mr. SIEGFRIED,

As this is the season in which the luxury of a visit to the YELLOW SPRINGS, in this county, is most sensibly enjoyed, I have thought the following Ode, written by the learned Mr. JAMES ROSS, of Philadelphia, might be an acceptable treat to the classical Portion of the visitors, at those delightful fountains; and have therefore sent it for publication in the Literary Department of your Paper, in case you approve the idea.

I should be gratified, also, to see it rendered in an appropriate English dress, by some one of your readers who may have drunk sufficiently at the fountains of Roman Literature to qualify him for the task.—

Yours respectfully,

AGRICOLA.

Chester County, July 20, 1826

In Fontem Flavulum, Pikelianum, Pennsylvanorum.

AD ASHEEL GREEN, S. S. T. D.

ODEN HANC

Cum plurimus salute mittit JAS. ROSS .

Quaereret si quis, socios, amicos,
Unde sanaret vacuos salute;
Flavulos fontes adeant sulubres
Fontis as undas.

Fons et hic mitis facilisque gustu,
Volvit ac undas liquidas bibenti;
Atque potando has, pariter lavando
Omnia cedunt.

Hujus et fontis resident sodales
Lusus et pratem, nemors atque colles;
Rupei nec sunt acepulisve saxis,
Gramine culti.

Instar ac montis, domibus relictis,
Collis assurgens superas ad auras;
Destruat longas minitans et aedes,
Prospicit agros.

Fontis ac hujus spatia atque culta
Frugibus pulchris, oculo— gratia;
Hic virent foetus, segetesque et Indi,
Tirtica florent.

Arbores fructus variosque fundant,
Hic jacent passim cerasa atque mala;
Hic vigent herbae, cucumisque mele,
Tempore quaeque.

Plurimae sylvae viridesque circum,
Quae domos ornant, similes columnia;
Populi ingentes numerisque sertae,
Haec loca adumbrant.

Atque pascentes pecudes videndae hinc,
Et boves Magni rebeant canori,
Dum gregas pingues ovium vacantes
Gramina carpunt.

Quisquis aut debilis, laborat
Aut mala tussi, veniat citatus;
Quisquis aut vitet lateris dolorem;
Has bibat undas.

Utilis his fons capitisque poenis,
Mitigat valse stomachi dolores,
Excitat sensum, reficitque morsus
Tempore scendi.

Fontis et vires aliae repertae,
Saepe at afflictis hominum medetur
Rheumatis morbo, medici nec ausia
Artibus uti.

Si quis et morbi fugeret solores,
Saeptus fontes bibat ore hianti;
Quisquis hos potet liquidos habebit
Fata morata.

Quisquis et vellet reparare corpus,
Adait his, undae facient valentem,
Talis est virtus, recreatque membra
Firmaque reddit.

Sentiat si quis, similis Catoni,
Viribus parci, bibere atque vellet
Nil aquae mixtae, velit atque puram,
Hanc bibat undam.

Ergo (nec mirum) veniunt frequentes,
Conjuges carae, juvenes, mariti,
Et senes, sponsae er puerin et puellae
Dulce canentes.

Interim mites, hilaresque laeti
Accubant mensis; dapibusque pleni,
Quas Bonus struxit; redeunt ffecti
Viribus intus.

Aedibus J. BONI, Equitis
Octavo Kal. Septembris, A. D. 1810.

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12. Quoted from "Register and Examiner" (West Chester), 4-23-1839:

THE YELLOW SPRINGS.

"On a visit to Chester county, a few days ago, finding myself within an hour's drive of the Yellow Springs, I determined to stop there a few hours, in order to see how things looked towards the approaching season. I was much gratified to find that Mrs. Holman was still there, and that she is now the owner of all the property at that place, and will have

completed, by the first of June, one of the handsomest and most extensive bathing establishments probably in the United States. The building, the plan of which was furnished by Mr. Hugh Walters, of this city, is 85 feet in length by 25 feet deep, divided into separate apartments, comprising shower, warm, moderate and cold baths, a portico the whole length, with columns in front, which will make a most beautiful appearance, and no doubt will cost the proprietor a great deal of money. I sincerely hope that such improvements, in addition to the known qualities of the water, and the reputation of Mrs. H's house for good living and excellent attention, for years past, will not fail to bring her a good return this summer for her exertions and enterprise, Philadelphia would be wanting in liberality, if they would not encourage such improvements, in their own state, and so near home.

"Mrs. H., in connection with her sons, formerly proprietors of the Chester County Hotel, are now at the Springs, and will be able to accommodate this season from 250 to 300 persons in their connected establishments. - Pa. Inquirer."

A VISITER.

13. Quoted from "American Republican", 10-23-1855:

"SHERIFF'S SALE OF VALUABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, — By virtue of sundry writs of Fieri Facias to me directed, will be sold at Public Sale, commencing on WEDNESDAY, the 24th day of October, A.D. 1855, at 12 o'clock, M., and continuing each day thereafter until all the hereinafter mentioned Personal Property shall have been sold, at the Hotel and premises of Mrs. Maria L. Neef, Chester or Yellow Springs, in the township of West Pikeland, and county of Chester, the following Personal Property, to wit:— One broad wheeled Wagon with wood bed, 1 two horse Carriage, 1 Dearborn, 2 four horse STAGES, 1 new and superior Vermont built four horse STAGE COACH, cost \$600, 1 York Wagon, 4 sets of Stage Harness, 2 sets of double Carriage Harness, 3 Plows, 2 Harrows, 1 Wheelbarrow, lot of Saddle and side Saddles, lot of Bridles, 2 sets of plow gears, 1 set of cart gears, 25 made oak posts, lot of forks, rakes, spades, shovels, &c., about 250 hair, cane and moss Mattresses, about 200 pillows, 118 bolsters, 56 double bedsteads, 65 single bedsteads, 106 basins and ewers, 155 wash stands, 25 cot bedsteads, 90 LOOKING GLASSES, 45 Bureaus, 325 Windsor Chairs, 90 chambers, 4 tables, 1 mahogany Wardrobe, 1 poplar Wardrobe, 1 cane seated Settee, 2 mahogany Card Tables, 1 Mantle Glass, 35 cane seated Chairs, 12 camp stools, 5 chamber buckets, 14 cases of drawers, 4 Sofas, 14 Lounges, 5 rush-bottom Chairs, 8 cane-seated arm Chairs, 2 marble top Centre Tables, 12 bar-room Chairs, 1 cane-seated rocking chair, 2 rocking chairs, 2 chairs for invalids, 2 bathing tubs, about 515 yds. of matting, 95 candlesticks, 15 Britannia chamber Lamps, about 25 yds. Carpeting, 5 tin buckets, 36 blankets, about 75 quilts, 25 Chandeliers, and side Lamps, 3 hall Lamps, 15 long pine dining tables, 3 fire fenders, 2 iron sofas, 1 ice box, 1 water cooler and drainer, 1 gallon measure, 1 settee, 14 mild pans, 2 mahogany work stands, 1 superior PIANO, (Shumaker's make) piano stool and cover, music stand, about 20 dozen

tumblers, 10 wash tubs, 3 clothes baskets, 2 large manglers, 1 cask gin, 1 key and sherry brandy, 9 demijohns, 16 barrels, 4 barrels and white sugar, 1 barrel and brown sugar, 36 doz. white plates, 8 doz. meat dishes, 1 doz. glass fruit stands, 1½ doz. pitchers, 23 sets of cups and saucers, 16 dozen wine glasses, 1 dozen white sugar bowls, 2 dinner bells, lot of oil cloth for stairs and hall, 4 benches, 2 doughtrays, 1 dresser, 1 Clock, 3 waiters, 1 large COOKING STOVE and Fixtures, cost \$300, made by Potts & Yocum, 4 ice cream cans, 4 Coal Stoves, 1 Wood Stove, 25 dozen chamber towels, lot of calico window curtains, lot of plain white window curtains, lot of figured white window curtains, 165 linen sheets, 225 muslin sheets, 12 dozen linen pillow cases, 7 dozen muslin pillow cases, 20 dozen knives and forks, 90 white counterpanes, 7 figured table covers, 13 bed sacking, 42 white linen table covers, 14 dozen linen napkins, 10 dozen German silver teaspoons, 10 salt spoons, 9 dozen plated forks, 5 dozen plated table spoons, 6 mahogany chairs, 2 side tables, 6 hand scrubs, fish box, lot of spices, jars, &c., superior Billiard Tablee, together with various other articles appertaining to a Hotel and bathing establishment, not herein enumerated. Seized and taken in execution as the property of Maria L. Neef, and to be sold by

L. HEFFELFINGER,

Sheriff"

Sheriff's Office }
West Chester, Oct. 23-1t }

14. Quoted from "American Republican", 1-1-1856:

"SHERIFF'S SALE OF THE CELEBRATED WATERING PLACE, KNOWN AS CHESTER OR YELLOW SPRINGS. - By virtue of a writ Benditioni Exponas to me directed, will be sold at Public Sale, on THURSDAY, January 24, 1856, at 1 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, the following described Real Estate, to wit:— all those certain Meesugges, Tenements, Public Inn Buildings, and Tract or Piece of Land, known as the Chester (or Yellow Springs Property), situate in the township of West Pikeland, in the county of Chester, and State of Pennsylvania, bounded by lands of Isaac Tustin, Margaret Holman, dec'd, (now Wm. W. Holman.) Harman Pennypacker, and others, containing 35 ACRES and 64 perches, (37 a. & 64 P.) be the same more or less, with the appurtenances, late the estate of Dr. George Lingen. The improvements are

"No. 1. Hotel, a three story STONE BUILDING about 95 feet in front with a porch extending along its sides and front; on the first floor are a parlor, large ball room, large dining room, store room, bar room with the fixtures, and water introduced under the counter. There is also in this building a wine and storage cellar, and attached to it is another large dining room, a kitchen with all the necessary water fixtures therein, and a bake house, the second and third stories are divided into pleasant chambers for boarders.

"No. 2. — "HALL" - a three story STONE HOUSE, about 40 feet in front, with a large private dining room on the first floor, and second and third floors are divided into chambers.

"No. 3.- "Cottage,"-- a two story STONE BUILDING, about 85 ft. front with two ends or wings extending back; on the first floor are a large parlor, a large drawing room, 3 bath rooms, with the fixtures for showers, plunge and rising and falling douche baths, used for hydropathic purposes, two water closets and other rooms; the second story is divided into chambers; there are two cellars under this building, and a porch extending along two sides and the front; it is also connected with the "Hotel" and "Hall" by a covered promenade of about 120 feet in length.

"No. 4-- "Washington House,"-- a two story Frame BUILDING, clap-boarded on the outside, about 90 feet in front, with basement story, in which is a plunge bath and water closet--upon the first floor is a large parlor and water closet; the residue of the house being divided into chambers; there is also a porch extending along the front and ends of the house.

"No. 5-- "Our House,"-- a two story STONE BUILDING, about 36 feet front, with stoops at the door of entrance, a basement story in which is a pantry room, ironing room and storage cellar--the upper stories being divided into chambers. There is also attached to it a Barber Shop and Ice Cream Saloon.

"No. 6-- A Stone Stable, with hay loft and stalls sufficient for the accommodation of from 80 to 100 horses, with a hydrant and water through at the door, and a Carriage and Wagon House attached.

"The water which supplies Hotel, Cottage, Washington House and Stable, is collected from the springs by iron pipes into a reservoir, situated at an elevation sufficient to carry a stream of water over said buildings, and to which it is conducted through iron and disseminated through leaden pipes.

"The Baths are: No. 1--BATH HOUSE, about 75 feet long, containing 1 plunge, 4 warm, 1 Russian steam, rising and falling douche, and several shower baths, dressing rooms, and boiler and furnaces for heating water. No. 2-- Bath House with plunge bath; water supplied to baths in houses No. 1 and No. 2 from the Iron or Yellow Spring. No. 3-- Bath House containing plunge, shower, rising and falling douche baths, and dressing rooms; water supplied by the celebrated Diamond Spring.-- Bath Houses Nos. 1 and 2, and the "Iron or Yellow" and "Sulphur Springs" are in a grove laid out with walks, containing summer houses and swings, and is situated in front of the main or Hotel building. There is also upon the premises a FRAME BILLIARD SALOON and TEN-PIN ALLEY, a two story Stone Wash House, a frame cow shed, sufficiently large to accommodate about 15 Cows, a Stone spring house with smoke house in the upper story, 3 ice houses sufficiently large to contain a supply of ice during the business season, large dam for making ice, a cave, a vault, a frame pig pen, a large APPLE ORCHARD, with a variety of other FRUIT TREES, 2 kitchen gardens with hot beds and a flower garden. The buildings are in good repair, and the land is divided into convenient fields by good fences, and is in a good state of cultivation.

"The Chester (or Yellow) Springs, is one of the oldest and most successful watering places in the country, is remarkable for the salubrity of the air, and excellence and variety of its waters. General Washington, during the war of the Revolution, appreciating these advantages, established here a military hospital for his invalid soldiers. It is accessible by two railroads and stage routes, by the Reading Railroad to Phoenixville, and the Columbia Railroad to the Steamboat Station, thence by stages--time from Philadelphia about 3 hours, from Baltimore 8 hours.

"Seized and taken in execution as the property of DR. GEORGE LINGEN, and to be sold by

L. HEFFELFINGER, Sheriff.

Sheriff's Office, West Chester, January 1-ts"

15. Quoted from James L. Paul: "Pennsylvania's Soldiers' Orphan Schools..." 1876, Pages 409-411:

CHESTER SPRINGS SCHOOL

"This school is situated in the northern part of Chester county, near the Pickering Valley branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.

"The buildings, as represented in the plate, are on the slope of a hill, facing south-east. The one on the right is called the Washington building, because it was built by General Washington, and used by him as a hospital for his sick and wounded soldiers from Valley Forge and Brandywine. It is a frame building, and rough weather-boarded on the outside. Dents in the steps of the old stairways are still visible, and can be pointed out to the visitor as the marks of the crutchee of the wounded patriots.

"A wing has been added for the accomodation of the school, thus making the main study-hall 48 x 53 feet, with small adjacent rooms for class-rooms. These have all been painted, which gives them a cheerful appearance.

"The central building is known as the cottage, and is used for the girls' sleeping apartments, sitting-room, wash- and bathing-rooms, library for the use of boys and girls, and music-room. The lady Principal and female members of the faculty also occupy this building.

"The girls' sitting-room is 20 x 60 feet. It is nicely carpeted and well furnished, and made attractive by pictures and mottoes on the walls. Adjacent to this are the library and music-rooms. The bath-room is furnished with an abundance of warm and cold water, and all that is necessary to promote the health and cleanliness of the children. The dormitories are well ventilated, clean, and comfortable.

"The large building on the left, known as the "Hotel," was originally a small, two-story house, and for some time the head-quarters of General Washington. An old Franklin stove, used by him, may still be seen in one

of the central rooms, which is used now as the boys' clothes-room. The building is used by the male members of the faculty and the boys. In addition to the dormitories, it contains sitting-rooms and bath-room, also the kitchen and dining-room.

"Between the hotel and the cottage, standing back a few feet, and not visible in the engraving, is the "Hall," in which are the sewing-room, boys' mending-room, and infirmary. These buildings are connected by a covered promenade.

"In front of the cottage is a lawn of about one and a half acres, used as the girls' play-ground, in which are a number of shade trees and a beautiful magnesia spring called "diamond spring." South of the "Hotel" is the boys' play-ground, embracing several acres, in which are the chalybeate spring and bath houses. These grounds are finely shaded by grand old sycamore and other trees.

"This place, formerly known as "Yellow Springs," was for many years a popular watering-place and summer resort. Hundreds of people, in quest of health and pleasure, made this their summer home - attracted here by the beauty of the scenery, the salubrity of the atmosphere, the medicinal quality of the water, and, doubtless, many on account of the historic association. How fitting, then, that this place, so sacred in the past, should now be a home for the children of those who, in a later day of our country's history, were slain upon the same alter, and by whose self-sacrifice our Union has been preserved.

"The property is owned by a stock company. The school is under the management of a Board of Trustees, elected yearly by the stockholders. The first elected were Isaac Sulgar, Esq., Prof. C. W. Deans, and M. S. McCullough, Esq., of which Isaac Sulgar, Esq., was President, and C. W. Deans Secretary and Treasurer. In June, 1870, the same were re-elected- M. S. McCullough being chosen President, and Prof. C. W. Deans Secretary and Treasurer. In June, 1872, T. J. Grier, Esq., was elected a member of the Board, in place of Isaac Sulgar, Esq. Owing to the death of C. W. Deans in 1873, Prof. W. E. Caveny was elected to fill the vacancy, and, at the last annual meeting of the stockholders, A. H. Hoagland was elected in the place of T. J. Grier, Esq.

"The school was organized in 1868, and was composed mainly of children transferred from Quakertown and Paradise Schools. Prof. C. W. Deans was appointed Principal, who carried it on successfully until April, 1870, when he resigned. Prof. W. E. Caveny was appointed his successor, during whose administration many valuable improvements were made and comforts added, and the moral condition of the school was also greatly improved. Prof. Caveny resigned in May, 1873, and Rev. F. C. Pearson was appointed Principal. He continued in charge until March, 1874, when, having other duties to claim his attention, he resigned, and Mrs. E. H. Moore, at the instance of Post No. 2, of the G. A. R. of the Department of Pa., was appointed, and has, by her continued success, demonstrated the fact that a modest lady is fully competent to discharge the varied and responsible duties of the position she still occupies to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

"The health of the school has been excellent, no form of epidemic having visited it, excepting scarlet fever, in the fall of 1870, which was skilfully treated by Dr. J. R. Hainey; and, although about fifty children were sick, all recovered. Of the five hundred pupils who have been here during a period of over seven years, but two have died. The first was a boy about thirteen years old, who, having wandered out of bounds, fell into a pit and received injuries which caused his death. The other, a girl of fourteen, died of hereditary consumption soon after entering school.

"The moral and religious condition of the school is very good, the children, having learned to act from motives of principle, do right because it is right.

"In order to convey an idea of the standing of the school, the estimation in which it is held by the people in the vicinity, we add a paragraph from one of the numerous articles published in the PHOENIX MESSINGER:

"The School at Chester Springs, under the administration of Mrs. E. H. Moore, has been very successful, and the standard has been raised to such an extent that it is now regarded one of the best schools in the State. At the last annual examination, in addition to the branches usually taught in the public schools, several classes were examined in geometry, algebra, botany, natural philosophy, physiology, book-keeping, and drawing, and showed a marked degree of proficiency in these branches'."

16. "Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts Summer School...1920"

Page 5

"THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS owns a tract of 40 acres at Chester Springs, Chester County, Pennsylvania, where it conducts an open air school for fine art instruction."

Pages 19 & 21.

"THE AIM OF THE SCHOOL"

"The chief object of the Academy in establishing a school in the country is to afford fine art instruction in the open air, with all the beautiful surroundings of nature itself, in order to supplement the instruction within the walls of classrooms, and afford an opportunity for the study of art in the Summer, to school teachers, and others who cannot spare the time to study in the Winter. The buildings are kept open throughout the year, so that nature may be seen and studied in all her varying moods.

"The methods of instruction at the Chester Springs School are substantially the same as those at the Academy in Philadelphia during its regular Winter courses, special attention, however, being paid to landscape drawing, and painting, and to the study of sunlight and shade. The aim of the instruction is academic, and this aim is far-reaching. While the range of the fine art instruction is as broad as possible, all fashions and mannerisms are avoided, and upon an academic basis students are taught to make studies of nature rather than sketches, and also are taught to carry on their work as far as their abilities permit.

"The general method of instruction at Chester Springs is by criticism of the work done. The instructors work with the students, and without repressing individuality by any fixed method, aim to help the student to observe accurately and fully, and paint truthfully and artistically what he sees. Notice is given, from time to time, of the names of the instructors and their respective days of criticism. During last summer criticisms were given by the following instructors, one or more of whom were living at the School throughout the term: Hugh H. Breckenridge, Arthur B. Charles, Daniel Garber, Henry McCarter, and Fred Wagner."

17. Quoted from James E. Graham: "Dr. Bodo Otto and the medical background of the American Revolution." - 1937:

Pages 152-153

"Yellow Springs (now Chester Springs), situated some ten or twelve miles west of Valley Forge, was a health resort of reputation, with medicinal springs and baths. It had many advantages to recommend it for the army hospital headquarters, and possession was immediately taken. The springs and baths, with some usable houses, were located on a farm belonging to Dr. Samuel Kennedy, who was among the first physicians ordered to Chester Springs, where he established hospitals in three barns. Dr. Kennedy became an early victim of the malignant putrid fever. A year after his death, Congress directed that his widow be paid \$5,000 for the use of the property.

"By order of General Washington, the construction of a commodious building was immediately started, to serve both as the Yellow Springs Medical Department headquarters and the principal hospital unit for the camp. "Washington Hall," as it was later called, was the only specially designed hospital erected for the soldiers of the Continental Army, with the exception of those small log huts constructed in various camps for temporary use.

"Washington Hall was 106 feet long, 36 feet wide, and three full stories and attic high. The third floor was divided into many small rooms, while the second contained two large wards. The kitchen, dining room, and all the utilitarian quarters were located on the first of ground floor. Nine-foot porches surrounded the first two stories on three sides. Here, Dr. Bodo Otto was ordered to take charge of the new hospital, which was filled with the sick from Valley Forge, even before construction work was finished. There he remained after the army broke camp, as director of the district and, assisted by his three sons, he continued in this important post until the hospital was discontinued by order of the Board of War, in the late winter of 1781."

Pages 181-182

"By this time [1780], the Yellow Springs Hospital had been organized solely for the reception of those suffering with lingering illnesses and for treatment and rehabilitation of the badly wounded.

"Finding himself critically short of supplies on May 19, 1780, Bodo Otto sent an appeal for relief:

'To the Honorable, the Committee of Congress for Conducting the Medical Department:'

'The memorial of Bodo Otto, surgeon of the hospital at Yellow Springs, sheweth,

'That the hospital at the Yellow Springs now, and for some time past, has been maintained for the reception of those afflicted chiefly with chronic disorders, and our necessary stores for the sick are entirely exhausted. There is no money in the hands of the Commissary to purchase fresh provisions, so the sick have been obliged these several days to eat salt provisions. There is but six days' supply of bread on hand, and the gentlemen who have furnished us that article as well as meat for the past two years now refuse to supply us any longer.

'Can it be supposed that a physician or surgeon can gain credit for perfect cures under these circumstances?

'The assistant physicians complain daily that they have not received any money for their services these past seven months; neither are they furnished with clothing, so it is uncertain how long they will be able to continue in their several capacities. The nurses and orderlies refuse serving any longer, as they have received no pay. This being the deplorable situation of the hospital at Yellow Springs, your Memorialist entreats your Honore to take the matter into consideration and order some speedy relief, or the sick and wounded must unavoidably suffer. He is loath to complain without cause but as the hospital has been under his direction for these past two years, supported with credit hitherto, he should be sorry to see it rendered useless and of no importance.

'His Excellency, George Washington, ordered the officers that if in case the sick are likely to suffer and not be relieved by the department they are to report the same to him'.

'Bodo Otto once again found himself in great need, and he, therefore addressed

'General Pickering,
Honorable Sir:

'After my best respects, I think it proper to give you the earliest advice of the wants of this hospital for fire wood and straw, which I think are to be supplied through the channels of your department [Quar-
ter Master's] particularly fire wood, of which we are entirely destitute, and unless very shortly furnished we must inevitably greatly suffer. Neither have we had any straw lately nor can I obtain any for my patients' beds and must do without, though straw is essential for their comfort. Major Howell, Q.M. in Downingtown, has lately directed these supplies, but the adjacent inhabitants, who have hitherto assisted in their carriage and the furnishing of such necessities, having received no consideration for same in cash for upwards of nine months past, are discouraged. It is, therefore, impossible for my commissary to keep us supplied therewith when he has no expectation of receiving money to pay for his former contracts (in any reasonable time) nor promises for the future

'I flatter myself your Honor will be pleased to forward my requisitions and adopt effectual means for our relief, which I hope and trust will be in a short time.

'August 26, 1780!' "

Pages 183-184

"The existence and value of the hospital at Yellow Springs were again threatened by shortage of supplies and medicines, and once more Bodo Otto addresses the Continental Congress. The Journal of February 8, 1781, records

'A letter of the 7th from Bodo Otto, physician and surgeon was read: whereupon it was ordered that the letter from Dr. Bodo Otto be referred to the Board of War to take measures for preventing any interruption being given to the hospital at Yellow Springs; the same being maintained solely for the reception of proper hospital subjects.'

"Eight months later, in September, 1781, a committee of Congress decreed that the three most important military hospitals, located in Boston, Albany, and Yellow Springs, should be abandoned. Dr. John Cochran, the then Director General, strenuously opposed this order, even soliciting the aid and influence of General Washington to have reconsidered, but without success. False economy and lack of appreciation of their need and importance was the explanation given to Dr. Otto when Dr. Cochran directed him to send his patients to Philadelphia and hold himself in readiness to report to some other hospital where his services would be most needed.

"The last official evidence of the Valley Forge encampment thus disappeared from the neighborhood. Once more the country thereabouts resumed a peaceful appearance, and the inhabitants returned to their everyday pursuits. Many of the soldiers who expired in the hospitals of the Yellow Springs group lie sleeping in unmarked graves on hillside farms, and local historians point out the places where they rest.

"It would be a fitting tribute to the memory of these neglected heroes, if the Republic for whose independence and future they suffered and died, should take title to these hallowed spots and thereon erect

'Monuments to the Unknown Soldiers
of the American Revolution.' "

* * * * *

18. Quoted from TODAY .. The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine,
January 9, 1955:

FAITH ON FILM

MAKING MOVIES FOR THE CHURCH

"On a 160-acre estate at Chester Springs, not far from Phoenixville, young men and women are putting their faith on film. They are members of Good News Productions, Inc., a movie company which makes films based on religious and charitable themes. They sell these to churches and television programs.

"Headed by 29-year-old Irvin S. Yeaworth, Jr., son of a former pastor of Philadelphia's Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church, the company consists of about 30 adults and their families who live, dormitory-style, in one of the 16 buildings on the grounds. Some of the company are former ministerial students who feel that this is their calling; others have come from the commercial motion picture field because they consider this career more rewarding.

"Our people aren't paid what they would receive in commercial work' Yeaworth says. 'We have had a rather rough time financially. But all of us are convinced that through this medium we can help to spread God's message.'

"Yeaworth believes that religious movies can succeed only if they are top-flight in every regard. The story lines of most Good News pictures are not taken from the Bible, but deal with the application of Christian principles to problems of everyday life. Because the company's overhead is low, films are produced far below normal commercial costs. The buildings and grounds serve as scenery to fit almost any plot setting, and members of the company double as actors and technicians.

"All chores, such as dish-washing and painting the buildings, are done on a cooperative basis, but Yeaworth stresses that this is not a social experiment. 'It is,' he says, 'a financial necessity'.

"Good News Productions, now believed to be the largest religious movie company in the United States, had its beginning 10 years ago in the basement of the manse of the Bethany Temple Church. Yeaworth and his associates then moved to a commercial studio in Philadelphia. In 1952, Good News purchased the Chester Springs property from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, which has used it as a summer school.

"A century ago, the estate, known as "Yellow Springs," was a spa for wealthy Philadelphians, who went there to take the baths in the mineral spring Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale," is said to have been a frequent visitor."

19. "The Vanishing Spas of Pennsylvania" (An Historical Review) By Igho H. Kornbluh, M.D., and Geo. Morris Piersol, M.D. :

Chester (Yellow) Springs - Chester County

"Yellow Springs, today known as Chester Springs, served the Lenni Lenape and Iroquois tribes long before the first white man set foot on the shores of the Delaware. The medicinal properties of the spring became known as early as 1722 (19). The American Weekly Mercury of May 31, 1722 brought Yellow Springs to the attention of its readers. Watson's "Annals" (20) mentioned this place as located thirty miles from Philadelphia in Chester Valley. In 1750, at a time when the population of Philadelphia was below the 40,000 mark, Yellow Springs had already many visitors. The owner of a farm in the township of Pikeland, a Robert Fritchard (21), petitioned "The honourable Justices of the Court of Quarter Sessions to be

held for the County of Chester ye 28th Augt 1750" for a license "to keep a house of entertainment at Ye Said Place." Pritchard pointed in his petition to the fact that being the owner of "that medicinal water called the Yellow Spring unto which there is Frequently a Great concourse of People on account of Health and also many other Travailing about their Occasions, on a Publik road...had already been at a considerable Charge in building and improving it to Serve the people." This petition must have been granted as in the same year the one story high log building which served as an inn "doubled already as a public house of entertainment to the satisfaction and ease of the neighbours," (13). Some years later Prichard sold the property to John Bailey, a silversmith of Philadelphia. Bailey constructed a new, larger, and more comfortable inn. The consumption of mineral water and other more intoxicating liquids must have been a part of the general entertainment enjoyed by the thirsty guests but not by the annoyed neighbors.

In 1765, the alarmed Friends of Lionville protested in a public meeting for the sake of their own children against the kind of diversion offered in this promiscuous resort. This complaint did not harm the business at the spring. On the contrary, it attracted even more visitors from near and far.

"A letter of Hannah S. Skelton to Dr. John Morgan on August 32nd (sic) 1767 contains valuable information on the hydrotherapeutic routine at Yellow Springs (22). Female inconsistency is shown in two sentences, one at the beginning and the other at the end of her letter. 'I have not as yet received any benefit as I can percieve...but have done very well since.' Miss Skelton mentioned three important facts: (1) the unpleasant taste of the water: 'It was disagreeable at first, but is very pallittable now'; (2) baths were taken in cold water, which precipitated even an accident on its first use: 'I have been in the springs several times and feel very comfortable after I come out. It made me very sick the first morning I went in'...'and the water being so cold it proved too strong for me and I sunk down to the bottom and the first I felt was my head against the gravel...'; (3) bathing was done in a natural or excavated deep reservoir or creek with gravel on the bottom, accessible by the way of stairs...'Had it not been', writes Miss Skelton, 'for a resolute young woman bin with me, I believe I should without doubt drowned, but she had the presence of mind and ran down the steps and pulled me out...' .

"On the premises of Yellow Springs, three springs are well preserved. None has a natural reservoir; all are nearly level with the surrounding ground and no stairs are needed to reach them.

"In 1774 the name of Samuel Kennedy appears in connection with Yellow Springs. Kennedy was born at sea in 1730 to David and Margaret Kennedy, emigrants from Downpatrick in Ireland. In 1777, the Continental Congress accepted Dr. Kennedy's offer and authorized the erection of an Army Hospital at Yellow Springs. Kennedy became its first Director and Senior Surgeon. The hospital accommodated not only wounded but also men suffering from typhoid fever, typhus, and smallpox. On September 17, 1777 General George Washington made his temporary headquarters there. Dr. Kennedy contracted an infection and died on June 17, 1778, at the age of 48. The hospital burned down on May 19, 1902.

"With the return of normal conditions, after the Revolutionary War, Yellow Springs resumed its role as a fashionable spa. Financial difficulties forced frequent change of ownership. Under all its successive proprietors, the initial project to erect a small town around the hotel with the designated name "Bath" never materialized.

"Direct coaches from Philadelphia, running regularly three times a week, brought this celebrated watering place within the reach of a large segment of the population. Boats on the Schuylkill River provided another means of transportation. Many celebrities stopped there to enjoy this "fine scenery", the famous mineral waters, and the joyous entertainment. It is presumed that the beautiful Swedish soprano, Jenny Lind, was once a guest at this spa. In her honor, one of the springs was christened Jenny Lind Spring.

"In 1845, Dr. George Lingen acquired Yellow Springs from a Mrs. Margaret Holman. Mrs. Lingen is credited with the discovery of a new spring-the Diamond Spring, while her husband added a new bath house for ladies. Under his management, the female guests were advised to wear for bathing the following costume: "A large morning gown of a cashmere shawl pattern, lined with crimson, a Greek cape, Turkish slippers and a pair of pantaloons". History does not record how much of this elaborate costume was retained in the bath.

"A description of Yellow Springs or a hidden advertisement (23) in the "Philadelphia Argus" of July 6, 1855, reprinted in the "American Republican" of July 10 of the same year, corroborates the earlier statements of Miss Skelton, as the writer of this description also mentions, "the bath...of coldest water". The contents of this nearly a century old contribution might have been written only yesterday. "At Phoenixville, we left the railroad and mounted a stagecoach for a seven mile ride over one of the hilliest and dustiest roads that we ever recollect to have met with. The driver was courteous and treated us to numerous bits of local history and biographical sketches of the people through whose domain we were passing. Before eleven o'clock we dashed recklessly up to the piazza and were warmly welcomed by Mrs. Neef, the estimable hostess of the Yellow Springs Hotel. It may astonish some who believe in the absolute perfection of the Saratoga and Newport, but we think it is a remark that experience will prove to be true, viz: that there is not on the American Continent a watering place where pleasure is so closely connected with the health-giving applications and where the visitor can more truly enjoy himself than at the Yellow Springs. The coldest conceivable water bubbles up and trickles away, leaving a saffron tint upon the rocks. Copious draughts of this delightful liquid will bring the blush of health to the cheeks of pallid beauty and make the muscle fibre tingle with renewed strength. After a plunge in the bath, a mild exercise in the ten pin alley and a climb to the summit of the hill that rises almost perpendicularly behind the hotel, one is prepared to make a savage onslaught upon the good things with which Mrs. Neef's table groans".

"Once more, during the Civil War, Yellow Springs came to prominence as a hospital for wounded soldiers. After 120 years, it ceased to play its sometimes stormy part as a spa or hospital. Playground of three generations of prominent Americans and famous for the many historical events which took place within its walls and in close vicinity, Yellow Springs changed after the Civil War to a more quiet and peaceful place, later serving as

an Orphan's School, subsequently as the summer school of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Only the well-preserved buildings and the three still producing springs bear witness to its great and enchanting past.

"Indifferent to sentiment and not satisfied with the mere statement of great therapeutic results, modern scientific methods have been employed to evaluate these mineral springs, by the chemical analysis of their water. The following chemical analyses fail to explain the clinical success obtained with these once celebrated waters.

"Analysis of the springs at Yellow Springs, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, Chemical Laboratory, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, number 33355, January 1952:

Spring "A" Iron Spring

pH.....6.7
Alkalinity.....34
Hardness.....64
Chloride.....2.0p/m
Fluoride......3 p/m
Sulphate.....54.0 p/m
Aluminum..... 5.5 p/m
Calcium.....15 p/m
Chromium..... 0.0 p/m
Copper..... 0.03 p/m
Iron Total..... 4.0 p/m
Magnesium..... 6.5 p/m
Manganese..... 0.4 p/m
Barium..... 0 p/m
Total Solids.....145 p/m

Spring "B" Sulphur Spring, same laboratory #33356, January 1952

pH..... 7.1
Alkalinity.....48
Hardness.....110
Chloride..... 2.0 p/m
Fluoride..... 0.1 p/m
Aluminum..... 4 p/m
Calcium.....26 p/m
Chromium..... 0 p/m
Copper..... 0.03 p/m
Iron Total..... 3.0 p/m
Magnesium.....12.0 p/m
Manganese..... 0.3 p/m
Barium..... 0. p/m
Total Solids.....180. p/m

Spring "C" Diamond Spring, same laboratory, #33357, January 1952

pH..... 6.9
Alkalinity.....50
Hardness.....62
Chloride..... 4.0 p/m
Fluoride..... 0 p/m
Sulphate..... 3.0 p/m

Aluminum..... 0.3 p/m
Calcium.....19.0 p/m
Chromium..... 0 p/m
Copper..... 0 p/m
Iron Total..... 0 p/m
Magnesium..... 3.5 p/m
Manganese..... 0 p/m
Barium..... 0 p/m
Total Solids....110 "

Prepared by Bart Anderson - May 1959
Curator, Chester County Historical Society

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The hotel was built in two stages in the early nineteenth century on the foundations on a mid-eighteenth century tavern. The structure has had few alterations since the 1830s.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair to good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The west section measures approximately 90' (eight-bay front) x 35' and the set-back east section approximately 38' (five-bay front) x 25'. Both sections are three-and-a-half stories, but the east section is lower.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Stuccoed stone.
4. Porches: There is a one-story porch which extends across the south (front) elevations of both sections.
5. Chimneys: Stuccoed brick.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Seem original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Windows seem original. There are paneled shutters on the first-floor windows of the west section.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roofs.

- b. Cornice, eaves: Probably original from the 1826 roof raising of the east section and the 1839 construction date of the west section.
- c. Dormers: Two dormers from 1826 on the south roof slope of the east section.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: Probably few alterations from the mid-nineteenth century layout.
- 2. Stairways: Probably original.
- 3. Flooring: Some old remains, but modern flooring has been placed over much of the old.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Openings seem original, although some additional openings were cut on the upper floors when some apartments were formed from the old rooms.
- 6. Trim: Mostly original.
- 7. Hardware: A mixture, but some from the 1820s remains.
- 8. Lighting: Modern electricity.
- 9. Heating: Some fireplaces remain; the building now has steam heat.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: Structure faces south on a hill.
- 2. Outbuildings: There were several outbuildings; many remain. See the separate data on the Yellow Springs Bathhouse (PA-1197) and Summer House (PA-1198).
- 3. Walks, driveways: Traces remain.
- 4. Landscaping, gardens: Well planted, but not kept well.

Prepared by: Bart Anderson
Curator, Chester County
Historical Society
May 1959